

From: Ritchey, Gail (COT)

Sent: Monday, April 23, 2007 2:10 PM

To: COT Constitutional CIO Security Contacts; COT Cabinet CIO Security Contacts; CTC Members

Cc: COT Exchange Administrators; COT Security Alert Contacts; COT Security Contact COT-Support; COT Security Contact Pass; COT Security Contact Self-Support; COT Technical Contacts; SecurityContacts Group

Subject: COT Security Alert - Threatening Spam Emails

COT Security Alert

Recently a new scam has appeared in state government email boxes that uses fear rather than greed or sympathy to prey on recipients. The scam e-mail threatens to kill recipients if they do not pay thousands of dollars to the sender, who claims to be a hired assassin. The style and content of these emails varies and they are not targeting specific individuals. There have been no reports where the threats were carried out and no reports of money loss. Responding to the email will result in verifying that your email address is active and the sender may then escalate threats or send related spam emails.

These spam emails may or may not be marked as spam through the spam filter at COT. Users are always advised to delete spam, ideally without opening it.

For more information on this scam, see the FBI report at http://www.fbi.gov/page2/jan07/threat_scam011507.htm.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

Confidentiality Statement - This communication contains information which is confidential. It is for the exclusive use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient(s), please note that any form of distribution, copying, forwarding or use of this communication or the information therein is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please return it to the sender and send a copy or notify: securitynotice@ky.gov and then delete the communication and destroy any copies.

Security Administration Branch
Division of Technical Services
Commonwealth Office of Technology
101 Cold Harbor
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: 502.564.5274
COTSecurityServices/SS@ky.gov
<http://ky.gov/got/security/>